DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SAN BERNARDINO

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2012 NR #23 CONTACT: Josh Dugas, REHS Program Manager (909) 387-3891

Mosquitos Test Positive for West Nile Virus in San Bernardino County

San Bernardino – The state laboratory confirmed yesterday that mosquitos collected on the border of Fontana and Ontario on April 25, 2012, tested positive for West Nile Virus. This is the first positive indicator of West Nile Virus in 2012 in the area served by the County of San Bernardino's Mosquito and Vector Control Program. The positive test resulted from routine mosquito trapping at Wineville Basin (county flood control property). The Basin was treated after the trapping was done and will continue to be monitored regularly.

The California Department of Public Health encourages the public to participate in the West Nile Virus surveillance program, by reporting dead birds or squirrels to the State West Nile Virus toll-free hotline at (877) WNV- BIRD, or on-line at www.westnile.ca.gov.

Property owners with pools are encouraged to keep them clean. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in unmaintained green pools and can fly up to 1.5 miles per hour, potentially transmitting the virus and impacting entire neighborhoods. Please report green pools and other sources of mosquito breeding to the County of San Bernardino's Mosquito and Vector Control Program at (909) 388-4600.

San Bernardino County residents can protect themselves and their families from West Nile Virus by taking these precautions:

- **Drain or Dump** Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitos lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- Dawn and Dusk Avoid spending time outside when mosquitos are most active.

- **Dress** Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose fitting and light colored.
- **DEET** Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer's directions.
- **Doors** Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitos from entering your home.

Horses are susceptible to West Nile Virus. A vaccine is available for horses; horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians about vaccinations.

For more information, contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services, Mosquito and Vector Control Program at 909-388-4600 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs.